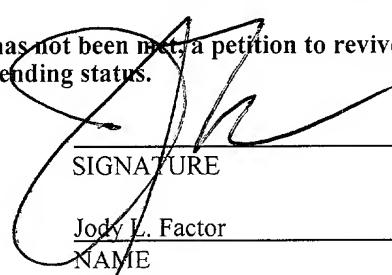


01-28-02

JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 24 JAN 2002 PCT

01/24/02		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (REV. 11-2000)	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 011310
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 107048243	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP00/05789	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 6/23/2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 7/31/99	
TITLE OF INVENTION: FLAT, FLEXIBLE, BONDED COMPOSITE MATERIAL			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Gerold Tebbe			
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371 (f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). 			
Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: Postcard; Certificate of Express Mail 			

U.S. APPLICATION NO.(if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 107048243	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP00/05789	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 011310																				
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY																				
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) : Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1,040.00																						
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$890.00																						
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$740.00																						
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$710.00																						
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00																						
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =		\$890.00																				
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).																						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;">CLAIMS</th> <th style="width: 20%;">NUMBER FILED</th> <th style="width: 20%;">NUMBER EXTRA</th> <th style="width: 20%;">RATE</th> <th style="width: 20%;">\$</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total claims</td> <td>17 - 20 =</td> <td>0</td> <td>x \$18.00</td> <td>\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent claims</td> <td>1 - 3 =</td> <td>0</td> <td>x \$84.00</td> <td>\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)</td> <td>+ \$280.00</td> <td>\$0.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$	Total claims	17 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$0.00	Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	x \$84.00	\$0.00	MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$280.00	\$0.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$																		
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Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	x \$84.00	\$0.00																		
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TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =		\$890.00																				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.		\$445.00																				
SUBTOTAL =		\$445.00																				
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).		\$0.00																				
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =		\$445.00																				
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21 (h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +		\$40.00																				
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =		\$485.00																				
Amount to be refunded: <input type="checkbox"/> \$ <input type="checkbox"/>																						
charged: <input type="checkbox"/> \$ <input type="checkbox"/>																						
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of <u>\$485.00</u> to cover the above fees is enclosed.																						
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>50-0545</u> in the amount of \$ <input type="checkbox"/> to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.																						
c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>50-0545</u> . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.																						
d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.																						
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.																						
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Jody L. Factor FACTOR & PARTNERS, LLC 1327 W. Washington Blvd., Suite 5 G/H Chicago, IL 60607																						
 SIGNATURE <u>Jody L. Factor</u> NAME 40039 REGISTRATION NUMBER																						

10/048243

JCCS Serial RECEIVED 24 JAN 2002

IN THE
UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Deotexis, Inc.

CASE: 011310

PRELIMINARY
AMENDMENT

SER. NO.: To be assigned

FILING DATE:

FOR: FLAT, FLEXIBLE, ABSORBING
LAMINATING COMPOSITE
MATERIALS

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
FOR PATENTS
Washington DC 20231

ATTENTION OF:

EXAMINER:

Dear Sir:

If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the following communication, they may be paid out of our Deposit Account No. 50-0545.

FACTOR & PARTNERS, LLC
1327 West Washington Blvd., Suite 5G/H
Chicago, Illinois 60607
(312) 226-1818 Telephone
(312) 226-1919 Facsimile

Jody L. Factor, Reg. No. 34157

IN THE CLAIMS CANCEL

Please cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice.

IN THE CLAIMS ADD

Please add claims 11-27 as follows:

11. A flat, flexible laminated composite material comprising:
 - a liquid-impermeable layer (14), and
 - a liquid-absorbent layer (16) bonded to the liquid-impermeable layer (14),
wherein a support layer (12) comprising a flexible network layer (34) carries the liquid-impermeable layer (14).
12. The laminated composite material according to claim 11, wherein the liquid-impermeable layer is a film or sheet material (14).
13. The laminated composite material according to claim 12, wherein the liquid-absorbent layer (16) includes a pile (22) of a material (24).
14. The laminated composite material according to claim 13, wherein the material (24) is selected from the group consisting of cotton, cotton fibers, and wool.
15. The laminated composite material according to claim 11, wherein the liquid-

absorbent layer (16) includes a pile (22) of a material (24).

16. The laminated composite material according to claim 15, wherein the material (24) is selected from the group consisting of cotton, cotton fibers, and wool.
17. The laminated composite material according to claim 15, wherein the liquid-absorbent layer (16) comprises a fleecy material.
18. The laminated composite material according to claim 11, wherein the liquid-absorbent layer (16) is a fleece layer.
19. The laminated composite material according to claim 12, wherein the liquid-absorbent layer (16) is a fleece layer.
20. The laminated composite material according to claim 11, wherein the liquid-absorbent layer (16) contains microcapsules (28);
 - the microcapsules (28) being filled with a substance (32); and
 - wherein the microcapsules (28) include a covering (30) that can be degraded or destroyed by at least one of pressure, temperature or moisture.
21. The laminated composite material according to claim 20, wherein the liquid

absorbant layer (16) includes a pile (22) of a material (24), and wherein the liquid absorbant layer (16) contains microcapsules (28), and means for adhering the microcapsules (28) to the material (24) of the pile (22).

22. The laminated composite material according to claim 21, wherein the adhering means comprises a bonding agent (26).
23. The laminated composite material according to claim 11, wherein the flexible network layer (34) comprises a material having a high degree of friction.
24. The laminated composite material according to claim 23, wherein the flexible network layer (34) comprises rubber.
25. The laminated composite material according to claim 11, further including a liquid-permeable cover layer (18), the liquid-absorbant layer (16) being positioned between the liquid permeable cover layer (18) and the liquid-impermeable layer (14).
26. The laminated composite material according to claim 25, wherein at least one of the liquid-permeable cover layer (18) and the liquid-absorbant layer (16) includes a hydrophobic material.

27. The laminated composite material according to claim 25, further including a bonding agent (26) provided on a plurality of bonding positions (36) spaced apart from one another and distributed on the liquid-absorbant layer (16) for bonding the liquid-absorbant layer (16) to the liquid-permeable cover layer (18).

Respectfully submitted,

FACTOR & PARTNERS, LLC



Jody L. Factor
One of Applicant's Attorneys

Dated: January 24, 2002

FLAT, FLEXIBLE, ABSORBING LAMINATED COMPOSITE MATERIALS

The present invention relates to a flat, flexible, laminated composite material.

5

Such laminated composite materials are known in many forms, for example as non-woven fabrics, felts, bonded fabrics, creel composite materials or laminated materials (bondings).

10

Such known laminated composite materials are either not watertight or, if they contain a water-impermeable layer, are uncomfortable to wear since water collects on the side of the laminated composite material next to the user, who 15 finds this unpleasant.

Although textiles containing a laminated composite material are already known (e.g. nappies or liners), these textiles have only a limited area of application however. A basic 20 textile material from which textiles for individual areas of application may subsequently be produced is not provided by these known textiles.

The object of the present invention is accordingly to 25 develop a laminated composite material of the type mentioned in the introduction so that it is watertight and at the same time is comfortable to wear.

This object is achieved according to the invention by a 30 laminated composite material having the features disclosed in claim 1.

The mode of action of the laminated structure according to the invention is however comparable to that of the known 35 textiles mentioned hereinbefore: body fluid released by the user is distributed by diffusion in the liquid-absorbent layer so that there is no undesirable accumulation of body fluid at points where the user comes into contact with the laminated composite material. The liquid-impermeable layer

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in turn prevents the body fluid from seeping through the laminated composite material and thereby wetting or soaking other substances or objects that are arranged on the side of the laminated composite material remote from the user.

5

An unpleasant odour due to escaping fluid may possibly also be prevented by the containment of the body fluid in the liquid-absorbent layer.

10 The laminated composite material is versatile and may be used for example as a bed inlay or sheet, or also as a textile material to be worn possibly over a conventional nappy.

15 The development according to claim 2 is a particularly simple and inexpensive realisation of the liquid-impermeable layer. Depending on the sheet material that is employed (plastics, metal, etc.) the sheet in the laminated composite material may also fulfil a supporting function.

20 When using thin polymer sheets, for example of polyethylene, thin and flexible laminated composite materials can be fabricated.

25 A high degree of wearer comfort combined with a high liquid absorption capacity of the laminated composite material is achieved by the detailed design of the laminated composite material according to claim 3. The projecting fibres of the pile keep the user's body surface at a predetermined distance from the liquid-impermeable layer, so that contact
30 between the body surface and the liquid-impermeable layer, with the associated danger of accumulation of fluid, is reliably prevented.

Once again, both the wearer comfort and liquid absorption
35 capacity are improved by the detailed design according to claim 4. In this connection the term fleecy material is

understood to denote a woollen pile that is substantially higher than the pile of a normal velour material.

With the liquid-absorbent layer according to claim 5, there
5 is again a good wearer comfort combined with a high liquid absorption capacity.

The detailed design of the laminated composite material according to claim 6 additionally has the function of
10 releasing a substance. The amount released as well as the duration of the release can be controlled via the stability of the coating of the microcapsules. Suitable substances include for example menthol extracts, to facilitate breathing, aroma substances or air fresheners.

15 The detailed design according to claim 7 is intended to maintain an initially established uniform distribution of the microcapsules on or in the laminated composite material.

20 The detailed design according to claim 8 ensures a mechanical reinforcement of the liquid-impermeable layer.

25 In this connection, a supporting layer according to claim 9 is both inexpensive and light, but at the same time is fully adequate for applications in which the supporting layer substantially serves as a spacing member between the liquid-impermeable layer and substrate of the laminated composite material.

30 The embodiment according to claim 10 in addition prevents the laminated composite material from slipping on a backing or substrate.

35 An additional cover layer according to claim 11 provides on the one hand protection for the liquid-absorbent layer, for example against mechanical action, and on the other hand,

particularly if the liquid-absorbent layer is hydrophobic, ensures that the user's body is again additionally insulated against accumulation of liquid in the liquid-absorbent layer.

5

According to claim 12, the bonding of the cover layer to the liquid-absorbent layer enables endless laminated composite materials having a cover layer to be produced.

10 The invention is described in more detail hereinafter with the aid of examples of implementation and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

15 Fig. 1 is a section through a cut-out portion of a laminated composite material;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged cut-out portion of a pile layer of the laminated composite material of Fig. 1;

20 Fig. 3 is a plan view of an alternative laminated composite material, viewed from the support side, and;

25 Fig. 4 is a plan view of yet another alternative laminated composite material viewed from the side next to the user's body.

The laminated composite material identified overall in Fig. 1 by the reference numeral 10 is a flexible sheet material that may be adapted to the body contour of a user.

Starting from a support layer 12, which is shown as the bottom layer in Fig. 1 and consists of a resistant hydrophobic plastics fibre material, the laminated composite material 10 contains the following further layers: a liquid-impermeable sheet 14 of a polymer material (for example polyethylene), a fleecy material layer 16 of

cotton, as well as a cover/woven fabric layer 18 of air-permeable and liquid-permeable textile material. The fleecy material layer 16 is in turn composed of two layers, namely a fleecy material base layer 20, to which the sheet 5 14 is bonded, and a pile layer 22.

The support layer 12 as well as the fleecy material layer 16 are bonded over the whole surface to the sheet 14.

10 The pile layer 22 in the unloaded state of the laminated composite material 10 is about three times thicker than the fleecy material base layer 20. The pile layer is composed of a plurality of individual cotton fibres 24 (see Fig. 2) that project from the fleecy material base layer 20.

15 The cover/woven fabric layer 18 is loosely bonded to the fleecy material layer 16.

20 The structure of the fleecy material layer 16 will become clear from the cut-out portion of the laminated composite material 10 of Fig. 1, illustrated in Fig. 2: a plurality of cotton fibres 24, which extend between the fleecy material base layer 20 and the cover layer 18, form the pile layer 22.

25 As is illustrated in particular in the enlarged cut-out portion of Fig. 2 in the region of a cotton fibre 24, microcapsules 28 adhere to the cotton fibres 24 by means of a bonding agent 26.

30 The microcapsules 28 have a covering 30, for example of gelatin, in which a liquid substance 32 is accommodated. The covering 30, which can be degraded or destroyed by pressure, temperature or moisture, is only very slightly 35 permeable to the substance 32, with the result that only a small amount of substance escapes outwardly from the interior of the covering 30 per unit time.

As an alternative to a fleecy material layer 16, the laminated composite material 10 may also include a fleece, for example a woollen fleece.

5 The support layer 12 may, when the laminated composite material 10 is used as a bed inlay, also be a flexible network 34 (see Fig. 3) consisting of a material with a high coefficient of friction, e.g. rubber, the slipping of the laminated composite material 10 on a backing thereby 10 being prevented. The flexible network 34 is bonded to the sheet 14, but alternatively may also be welded or stitched to the latter.

15 In the production of endless strips of the laminated composite material 10, the cover layer 18 is not formed as a loose layer, but is bonded to the fleecy material layer 16 as illustrated in Fig. 4. For the sake of better comprehension part of the cover layer 18 has been omitted in Fig. 4 in order to provide a view of the underlying 20 fleecy material layer 16. The fleecy material layer 16 carries portions of adhesive on a plurality of bonding positions 36 arranged in the manner of a grid. The adhesive arranged in this way bonds the cover layer 18 at separate points to the fleecy material layer 16. In this 25 way a sufficient area through which an exchange of air or moisture is possible remains even when an impermeable adhesive is used between the bonding positions 36.

30 As an alternative to bonding, the sheet 14 may also be welded to the support layer 12 or to the fleecy material layer 16 or to the fleece.

The function of the laminated composite material 10 is as follows:

35 If the laminated composite material 10 is used, for example as a bed inlay, bed sheet or as an article of underwear,

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the cover/woven fabric layer 18 faces the user's body. Body fluid released by the user penetrates the cover/woven fabric layer 18 and is absorbed by the fleecy material layer 16. The body fluid is distributed by diffusion over 5 a large area of the laminated composite material 10, with the result that in the region of the cover/woven fabric layer 18 there is no unpleasant accumulation of liquid.

10 The sheet 14 serves as a liquid trap, so that the user's body fluid cannot penetrate the laminated composite material.

15 Due to the absorption of the body fluid in the fleecy material layer 16 and/or in the fleece, the body fluid is dissipated away from the user's body, so that the latter remains dry.

20 A further application of the laminated composite material is in the long-lasting use of volatile substances or odoriferous substances.

25 A volatile substance 32, for example a menthol or herbal extract for improving the permeability of the respiratory pathways, or a fragrance, escaping through the coverings 30 of the microcapsules 28 penetrates the cover/woven fabric layer 18 over a long period of time, which may be predetermined via the substance concentration and the permeability of the covering 30, and is inhaled by the user when the latter breathes.

Patent Claims

1. Flat, flexible laminated composite material, with a liquid-impermeable layer (14) and a liquid-absorbent layer (16) joined to the latter, characterised in that a support layer (12), comprising a flexible network layer (34), carries the liquid-impermeable layer (14).
5
2. Laminated composite material according to claim 1,
10 characterised in that the liquid-impermeable layer is a sheet (14).
15
3. Laminated composite material according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the liquid-absorbent layer (16) has a pile (22), preferably of cotton fibres (24).
20
4. Laminated composite material according to claim 3,
characterised in that the liquid-absorbent layer (16)
25 comprises a fleecy material.
30
5. Laminated composite material according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the liquid-absorbent layer (16) is a fleece layer.
35
6. Laminated composite material according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the liquid-absorbent layer (16) contains microcapsules (28) that are filled with a substance (32) and that have a covering (30) that can be degraded or destroyed by pressure, temperature or moisture.
40
7. Laminated composite material according to claim 6 in conjunction with claim 3, characterised in that the microcapsules (28) adhere to the fibres (24) of the pile (22), preferably via a bonding agent (26).
45

8. Laminated composite material according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that the flexible network layer (34) consists of a material having a high degree of friction, in particular rubber.
- 5
9. Laminated composite material according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that a liquid-permeable, preferably hydrophobic cover layer (18) for the liquid-absorbent layer (16) is provided on the side remote from the liquid-impermeable layer (14), the said cover layer being joined to the liquid-absorbent layer (16).
- 10
10. Laminated composite material according to claim 9, characterised in that the cover layer (18) is bonded to the liquid-absorbent layer (16), the bonding agent being provided on a plurality of bonding positions (36) spaced apart from one another and distributed over the surface of the laminated composite material (10).
- 15
- 20

(12) NACH DEM VERtrag UBER DIE INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT AUF DEM GEBIET DES
PATENTWESENS (PCT) VEROFFENTLICHTE INTERNATIONALE ANMELDUNG

(19) Weltorganisation für geistiges Eigentum
Internationales Büro



(43) Internationales Veröffentlichungsdatum
8. Februar 2001 (08.02.2001)

PCT

(10) Internationale Veröffentlichungsnummer
WO 01/08880 A1

(51) Internationale Patentklassifikation⁷: B32B 7/02, A61F 13/15, 5/48, A41D 31/02

(72) Erfinder; und

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(21) Internationales Aktenzeichen: PCT/EP00/05789

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(22) Internationales Anmelde datum:
23. Juni 2000 (23.06.2000)

(81) Bestimmungsstaaten (national): JP, US.

(25) Einreichungssprache: Deutsch

(84) Bestimmungsstaaten (regional): europäisches Patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

(26) Veröffentlichungssprache: Deutsch

Veröffentlicht:

— Mit internationalem Recherchenbericht.

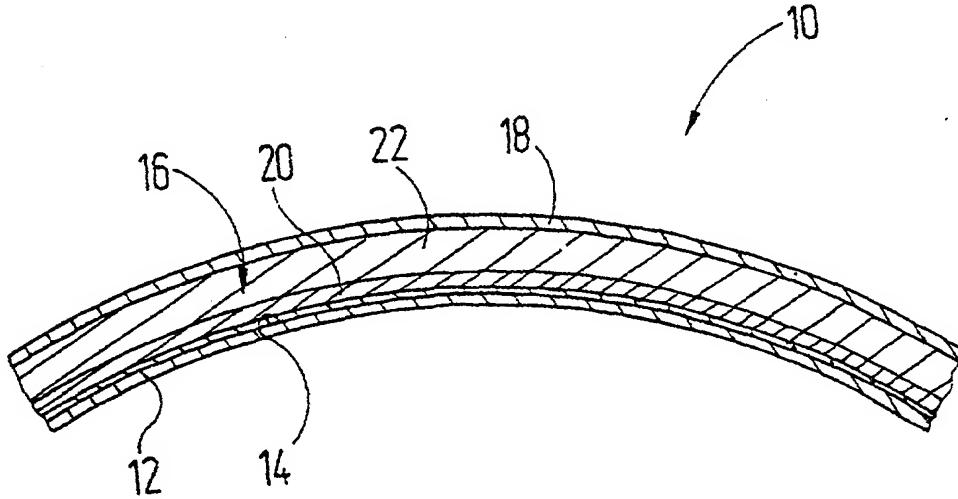
[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]

(54) Title: FLAT, FLEXIBLE, BONDED COMPOSITE MATERIAL

(54) Bezeichnung: FLÄCHIGER BIEGSAMER ABSORBIERENDER SCHICHT-VERBUNDSTOFF



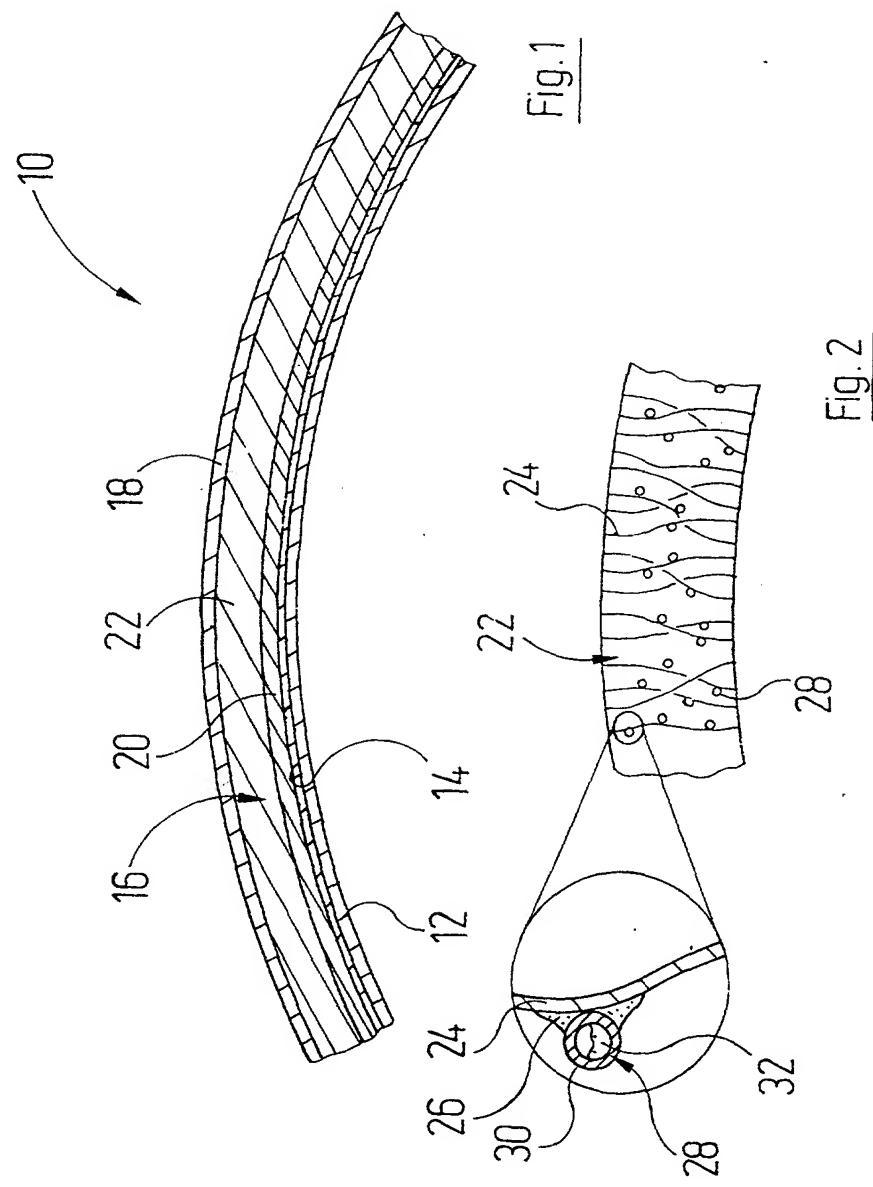
A1



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a flat, flexible, bonded composite material (10) for use in textiles. Said composite material has a watertight layer (14) and a liquid-absorbent layer (16) which is connected thereto. The bodily fluid given off by a user is absorbed by the liquid-absorbent layer (16). The watertight layer (14) prevents the liquid from seeping through the bonded composite material (10).

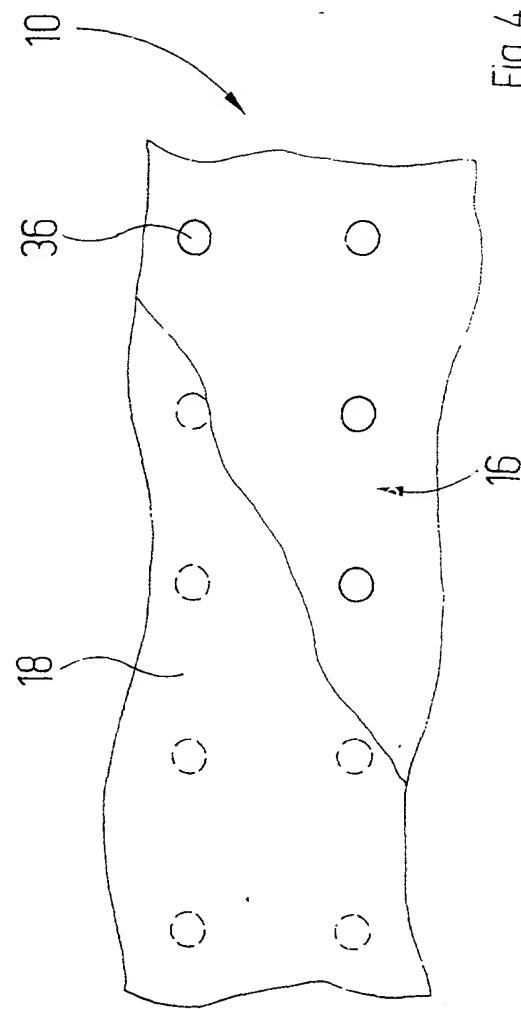
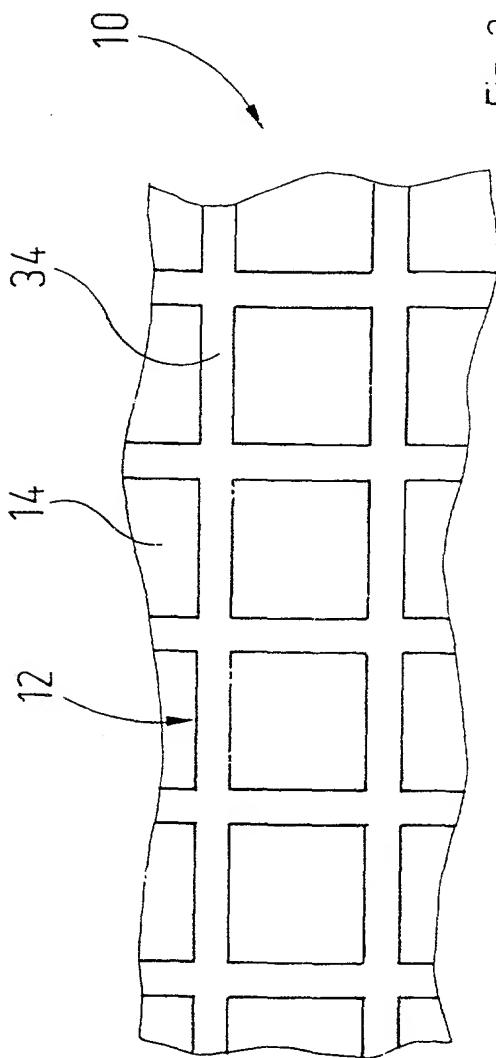
WO 01/08880 A1

(57) Zusammenfassung: Ein flächiger biegsamer Schicht-Verbundstoff (10) zur Verwendung als Textilmaterial weist eine flüssigkeitsundurchlässige Schicht (14) und eine mit dieser verbundenen flüssigkeitsaufnehmenden Schicht (16) auf. Von einem Benutzer abgegebene Körperflüssigkeit wird von der flüssigkeitsaufnehmenden Schicht (16) aufgenommen. Die flüssigkeitsundurchlässige Schicht (14) verhindert, dass die Flüssigkeit durch den Schicht-Verbundstoff (10) hindurchsickert.



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PTO/SB/01 (12-97)

Approved for use through 9/30/00. OMB 0651-0032

Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63)		Attorney Docket Number	
		First Named Inventor	TEBBE
COMPLETE IF KNOWN			
		Application Number	
		Filing Date	January 24, 2002
		Group Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Flat, flexible, bonded composite material

the specification of which *(Title of the Invention)* is attached hereto
OR was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 06/23/2000 as United States Application Number or PCT InternationalApplication Number EP00105789 and was amended (MM/DD/YYYY) (If applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
199 36 154.1	DE	07/31/1999	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

 Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.4 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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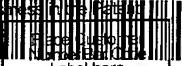
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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)
PCT/EP00/05789	06/23/2000	

Additional U.S. or PCT international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business with the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Customer Number **22876** → 

OR

Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below



Label here **22876**

Name	Registration Number	Name	PATENT/TRADEMARK OFFICE Number
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Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

✓ UD
Name of Sole or First Inventor:

A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle [if any])

Family Name or Surname

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Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto